

a.m., and on Friday, May 22, the House will meet at 9 a.m. to consider the following legislation:

Continued consideration of H.R. 3616, the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 1999;

H.R. 3150, the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1998; and

H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1997.

□ 1430

We also hope to have a number of conference reports ready for next week, including H.R. 2400, The Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act conference report; and H.R. 2646, The Education Savings Act for public and private schools conference report.

Mr. Speaker, we hope to conclude legislative business for the week on Friday, May 22. The House will be in recess for the Memorial Day district work period until Tuesday, June 2.

The House will reconvene on Wednesday, June 3, at 10:30 a.m. However, votes will be postponed until after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, the resumption of our work after the recess.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, can the distinguished majority leader assure the House that we will vote on the final passage of campaign finance reform before the recess, as promised?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I want to, of course, thank the gentleman for his inquiry.

Next week is, of course, a week where we have a great deal of work that is pending before the Nation and very important work. There is no doubt we will get to campaign finance reform. And this is, of course, a very big, broad-based debate, focused on honest and fair elections; and we intend to have that full debate and there will be full consideration.

So I have no way of assuring the gentleman of our ability to complete that work, given the fact that we have just, I think, until the end of today to file substitutes. So my anticipation is there will be a large number of voices that will want to be heard.

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, if I could ask a question of the distinguished majority leader.

Since we are the blue dog with the sponsor of the discharge petition, we are concerned, very clearly, that the whole matter be discussed next week. And I just heard the comments of the gentleman to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

So does the majority leader think that we are going to be able discuss the substance or just the rule next week?

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman is still talking about the consideration of honest and fair elections, certainly, I have no doubt, we will get beyond the rule and into the bill.

I simply cannot give my colleague any assurance about how far we will get relative to the amount of work to be done. But certainly the gentleman is correct; we will be discussing the legislation itself.

Mr. BONIOR. Can I ask my friend from Texas how much time does he anticipate that he may be setting aside for the campaign finance reform bill, the honest election bill that he referred to?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would further yield, I appreciate his interest. But we have sought full participation by everyone who has been working on this subject to give them an opportunity to present their recommendations and consider that. We will know more, of course, after the filing of all the substitutes before the committee. But we intend to give it as much time as it will take.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague the distinguished minority whip for yielding. I wonder if I might ask a question, under his reservation, of the majority leader.

As the majority leader I think knows, there are bipartisan interests in activities of official business on Friday of next week, and I am wondering is it possible for the majority leader to give us a 2 o'clock or a 3 o'clock certain adjournment time, or, at least, would he be willing to entertain a request from this gentleman that we adjourn as early as possible on Friday?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman. I do understand the importance of the work that my colleague is discussing here. And it is a Friday before a district work period.

We will undoubtedly find ourselves having to stay late on Wednesday night, perhaps Thursday night. And it is our intention to be able to conclude by 2 o'clock so that people can begin their district work period in a manner that would be consistent with the plans they have made.

Mr. BEREUTER. If the gentleman would continue to yield, I just wanted to thank the majority leader for that indication. I think it would be helpful in our planning and it is of bipartisan importance.

Mr. BONIOR. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) for an inquiry.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to inquire of the majority leader if the leadership has ascertained as yet the nature of the rule under which we will consider campaign finance reform?

As my colleague is I am sure aware, the discharge petition that many of us felt would have given a very free and open debate of the issue includes some mode of operation that we feel is very, very important to the consideration of these competing ideas. The so-called freshman bill and the Shays-Meehan bill, we believe very strongly, should be considered in what we call the Queen of the Hill, in which the one that gets the most votes becomes the base bill; and then the open rule that I believe everyone has promised for amendment would then occur thereafter.

Could my colleague shed some light as to whether or not the leadership might be sympathetic to basically having the rule that was about to be discharged be the rule under which we will conduct the free and open debate?

Mr. ARMEY. As I said before, the substitutes are still being filed. But I believe the kind of rule the gentleman from Texas outlined, and again, I do not of course have the authority to speak on behalf of the Committee on Rules, but I would anticipate that if the gentleman is requesting the kind of rule outlined, anticipating that, that he should have good expectations that he will be pleased with the rule, from the discussions that I have heard.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague from Texas.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 18, 1998

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

HOURLY OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1998

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, May 18, 1998, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.